


Copy: Tim Mason / S. State /
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BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE


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06 JUN 1991

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Dear Anthony

Thank you for your letter of 17th May 1991 about the proposal to investigate the feasibility of a film and video agency for London.

I confirm that our intention is to consult widely between now and August 1991 and to ask Governors to take a decision at the September meeting of the Board.

You ask whether it would be prudent to consider an incremental development complementing London Arts Board support for film and video. As I am not sure what the London Arts Board's proposals are in this field I cannot comment on that but the answer is likely to be no. What I would say, however, is that if we go ahead, this is a tremendous opportunity for the London Arts Board to get a grip on the opportunities for Broadcasting the Arts in London. We can commit absolutely to working with the LAB on this matter. I have had preliminary discussions with Clive Priestly on this matter and will also be discussing it with Tim Mason with a view to developing proposals along these lines.

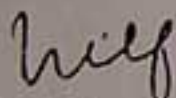
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I am not sure why you feel that a decision taken in London, which has long historic and complex problems about film and video funding has necessarily to be taken as a model for the rest of the Country. It is true that MDA-style solutions for Birmingham, Sheffield and Newcastle have provided a focus for film and video activity which we find welcoming. However I am not sure whether we have enough evidence one way or the other to suggest that this is a desirable development for the Country as a whole. What we are saying (and what I said explicitly in my speech in Bristol) is that the BFI will continue to keep an open mind about the best way of making progress in this area. For the shorter term we have every intention of working with the Regional Arts Boards provided that they are able to prove to us tht they have the capacity to deliver the aims and objectives we have for the Regions. As you will appreciate, until such time as we have sufficient information to judge that it is premature for us to take decisions one way or the other.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Wilf Stevenson
Director

cc Irene Whitehead/BFI Planning Unit